

# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH—OPERATION ID



Operation Identification, known as Operation ID, is a burglary prevention program for use in homes and businesses. Operation ID has traditionally involved marking property with a Driver's License number to identify property and to discourage burglary and theft. This process is time consuming and discourages many well intentioned participants. However, Operation ID has evolved with new technology for easier completion. Following are the easy steps to complete Operation ID.

## PHOTOGRAPH:



Photo document your personal property with pictures and /or videotape. Digital photography allows quick picture taking and easy storage. Start with overview photographs of a room (wall by wall, ceiling to floor) before taking close-ups of specific property. Take pictures showing brand names and type before photographing the serial number. Items that were previously discouraged from engraving (collectibles, furs, art, antiques, china, and jewelry) can be documented in larger groups with a tape measure to provide scale. Remember to document each room, all closets, shelves, the garage and vehicles.

## DOCUMENT:

Document your personal belongings on paper or with a computer. Include the quantity of items, item name/description, make and/or model, serial number, purchase cost, and purchase year.

After documenting property, store photographs and inventory sheet, along with receipts of major purchases, in a secure place with a copy kept at off-site (safe-deposit box). Review and update inventory annually. Display the Operation ID sticker near perimeter doors and windows to let potential burglars know your property is documented.

Engraving your property with a Driver's License number is a good practice and is encouraged. If taken and found, property can be traced back to you.



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**"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"**

Easy and convenient program

Free crime prevention program  
for your family and neighborhood.

**For emergencies call 9-1-1**

Sterling Police Department  
Crime Prevention Unit  
815 632-6640  
[crimeprevention@sterling-il.gov](mailto:crimeprevention@sterling-il.gov)  
[www.ci.sterling.il.us/main/departments/police](http://www.ci.sterling.il.us/main/departments/police)

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